

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-07 DODE-00 SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-03 IGA-02 AID-20 OMB-01

TRSE-00 /088 R

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APPROVED BY AF/E:WBCOOTE

AF/E- MR. MELONE

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J 5 COL. WALTERS

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R 242027Z AUG 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

INFO CHMAAG ADDIS

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T STATE 169094

E.O. 11652GDS

TAGS: MASS, ET

SUBJECT: DISCUSSIONS WITH IEG ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE

REF: (A) ADDIS 9913

(B) ADDIS 9798

(C) ADDIS 9771

(D) ADDIS 9650

(E) STATE 158868

1. DEPT AND DOD APPRECIATE DIFFICULT PROBLEMS POSED
FOR COUNTRY TEAM IN ATTEMPTING COME TO GRIPS WITH IEG'S
GROSSLY EXAGGERATED SECURITY NEEDS. WE WOULD PREFER,
HOWEVER, AVOID SUBMISSION OF ADDITIONAL CT INCREMENTAL
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LISTS THAT COULD GIVE APPEARANCE OF USG POSITIONS ON

IEG'S "URGENT" NEEDS. WE WOULD HOPE, INSTEAD, CT INPUT COULD BE LIMITED AT THIS TIME TO PARTICIPATION AS MEMBERS OF IEG/USG PRIORITIES COMMITTEE, AND IN THAT ROLE HELPING IEG TO REVIEW ENTIRE LIST OF REQUIREMENTS FOR PRIORITY RANKING. END PRODUCT WOULD BE A PRIORITIES COMMITTEE LIST AD REFERENDUM TO RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS.

2. NOYES' LETTER OF MAY 18 ESSENTIALLY REPEAT OF ORIGINAL GUIDANCE ESTABLISHING USG-IEG PRIORITIES COMMITTEE TO REVIEW 1970 SHOPPING LIST. ETHIOPIAN REQUEST SUBMITTED DURING MAY VISIT WAS NOT RANKED IN ORDER OF PRIORITIES, EXCEPT BY ROUGH DISTINCTION THAT EXPENDABLE COMMODITIES WERE MORE URGENTLY NEEDED THAN HARDWARE. NOYES' LETTER WAS ATTEMPT TO DEFLECT REQUEST BACK TO PRIORITIES COMMITTEE. NO CHANGE IN THE CT APPROACH TO THE COMMITTEE WAS INTENDED.

3. ORIGINAL U.S. PURPOSE FOR PRIORITIES COMMITTEE WAS TO CREATE MEANS FOR ADDING ELEMENT OF REALITY TO IEG THINKING THROUGH PROTRACTED DISCUSSIONS AND, HOPEFULLY, FOR MUTUALLY WEEDING OUT ITEMS BECAUSE OF TECHNICAL COMPLEXITIES, LACK OF NEED AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS. OUR DESIRE THEN AS NOW WAS TO HELP ETHIOPIANS FOCUS ON IDENTIFYING PRIORITIES THAT COULD BE CONSIDERED AGAINST LIMITED FUNDS (LEFT PURPOSELY VAGUE) THAT MIGHT BECOME AVAILABLE. INITIATIVE IN ESTABLISHING ITEM PRIORITIES, HOWEVER, WAS TO COME FROM THE ETHIOPIANS WITH CT COMMITTEE MEMBERS ACTING AS SOUNDING BOARD. WE FULLY REALIZE THAT DISTINCTION BETWEEN CT ROLE AS MEMBERS OF PRIORITIES COMMITTEE AND AS REPRESENTATIVES OF USG/CT IS THIN AT BEST. AS SLIGHT AS IT MAY BE, HOWEVER, PREFERRED TACTIC IS TO INFLUENCE IEG'S PERCEIVED PRIORITY STRUCTURE BY TECHNICAL CHALLENGES RATHER THAN PRESENTING PARTIAL U.S. LIST RESEMBLING FUNDING TRANCHE.

4. IN ANY EVENT, WHILE WE WOULD PREFER THAT PRIORITY COMMITTEE CONTINUE ITS DELIBERATIONS IF THIS CAN BE DONE WITHOUT SUBMISSION OF ADDITIONAL US/CT LISTS,

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THUS KEEPING THE ONUS OF PRIORITY RANKING ON IEG'S BACK, WE WOULD ACCEPT INTERRUPTION OF TALKS UNTIL TENTATIVE DOLLAR GUIDELINES AVAILABLE IF EMBASSY/MAAG BELIEVE DISCUSSIONS NOW ALONG LINES OUTLINED ABOVE WOULD NOT BE PRODUCTIVE. WE HAVE DISCUSSED THIS WITH AMBASSADOR ADAIR AND HOPE TO HAVE TENTATIVE DOLLAR GUIDELINES READY ABOUT TIME OF HIS RETURN TO ADDIS.

5. WE AGREE WITH COUNTRY TEAM POSITION OUTLINED PARA
4 OF REF (C), EXCEPT THAT WE WOULD PREFER THAT U.S.
POSITION YOU MAY EVENTUALLY STATE BE REVISED TO READ
"THAT IN VIEW LONG HISTORY AND CONTINUING ROLE OF U.S.
AS CHIEF MILITARY SUPPLIER TO ETHIOPIA, WE TRUST IEG
WILL TURN FIRST TO US FOR ANY COMMERCIAL IEG MILITARY
PROCUREMENT TRANSACTIONS". RUSH

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